

Amendments to the Claims

Please add new Claims 15-18. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1. (Previously presented) A dispensing assembly, comprising:
 - a. a platform supporting a plurality of microscope slides, the platform having plural heated surface areas, each heated by an electric heater thereunder, each heated surface area being adapted to be in contact with and underlie a microscope slide bearing a biological sample;
 - b. plural temperature sensors on the platform for sensing temperature of respective heated surface areas;
 - c. a liquid dispenser that dispenses liquid reagents onto the slide bearing the biological sample, said liquid dispenser being located above said platform, said liquid dispenser and platform being adapted for relative movement between said liquid dispenser and platform; and
 - d. a microprocessor adapted to be programmed with information on the location of the liquid reagents, the location of the slides, and a protocol to control heating of the slides and application of reagents to the slides.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously presented) A dispensing assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the heated surface area is adapted to support only one slide.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously presented) A dispensing assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the platform comprises plural removable slide supports.
6. (Previously presented) A dispensing assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the heater is a resistive heating element.

7. (Previously presented) A dispensing assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the liquid dispenser further includes an actuator positioned at a stationary liquid dispensing station, the platform being moved to index slides to the liquid dispensing station.
8. (Previously presented) A method for processing biological samples mounted on microscope slides, comprising:
 - a. programming a microprocessor with information on location of liquid reagents, location of slides and a protocol for applying reagents to slides and heating slides;
 - b. placing a microscope slide having a biological sample on a surface area of a platform, the surface area being heated by an electric heater thereunder and the platform being adapted to support a plurality of slides, the platform further comprising plural temperature sensors for sensing temperature of respective surface areas;
 - c. under microprocessor control, causing relative movement between a liquid dispenser and the platform so as to align the liquid dispenser over a microscope slide;
 - d. under microprocessor control, dispensing liquid reagent from the liquid dispenser onto the slide; and
 - e. under microprocessor control, causing heating of the biological samples.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein each heated surface area supports only one slide.
11. (Canceled)
12. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein plural removable slide supports are on the platform.
13. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the heater is a resistive heating element.

14. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the liquid dispenser includes an actuator positioned at a stationary liquid dispensing station, the platform being moved to index slides to the liquid dispensing station.
15. (New) A dispensing assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the platform is a moveable platform.
16. (New) A dispensing assembly as claimed in claim 15, wherein the moveable platform is a carousel.
17. (New) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the platform is a moveable platform.
18. (New) A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the moveable platform is a carousel.